

December 8, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned trade association, organizations, and utilities that collectively represent the nearly 1,000 community-owned natural gas systems operating in 40 states across the country, we write to express our strong support for H.R. 3898, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act. Locally owned utilities are directly accountable to the communities they serve and have long advocated for permitting certainty and timely federal processes that enable new energy infrastructure to be constructed responsibly. The PERMIT Act is a meaningful step toward providing clarity and certainty within the Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting process and enabling energy projects to proceed with the predictability public gas systems need.

For public gas systems, permitting reform is central to maintaining their ability to deliver energy affordably and reliably while also meeting the rapidly increasing demand for natural gas. In many regions across the country, APGA members are captive to a single interstate pipeline. This limits supply diversity and can multiply the negative impacts caused by capacity constraints. Demand for natural gas is increasing across public gas systems' customer bases: residential, commercial, and industrial. Communities from the East Coast to the West Coast are experiencing significant growth, creating new challenges for operators of natural gas distribution infrastructure. Some APGA members now have waitlists for new service or have had to turn away opportunities to serve prospective commercial customers due to insufficient pipeline capacity. This impacts local economies and results in real consequences for communities that could benefit from local job growth and broader tax bases.

The PERMIT Act would help address these challenges by codifying exclusions from the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) and improving transparency, reducing regulatory uncertainty and ensuring prompt decision making.

APGA appreciates the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's leadership in advancing a bill that recognizes the practical realities facing utilities and energy consumers. Public gas systems play a vital role in delivering affordable and reliable energy while supporting their communities. Without access to additional pipeline capacity, APGA's members will continue to face challenges in meeting the needs of new customers and keeping costs affordable for their existing customers. Without appropriate permitting reform, communities will be hindered from fueling the economic growth that Americans are ready to pursue. The PERMIT Act offers a balanced, common-sense approach to these challenges.

APGA stands ready to work with you, Committee Chairman Graves, Subcommittee Chairman Collins, and all Members of the House to ensure that communities across the country have access to the modern, reliable energy infrastructure they need to thrive. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Public Gas Association (APGA)
Blackbelt Energy
Clark Mobile Counties Gas District
Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District
Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia
York County Natural Gas Authority

CC: The Honorable Mike Collins, The Honorable Sam Graves